



# SEMA News

Missouri State Emergency Management Agency  
Preparedness · Response · Recovery

Fall

2014

## DPS, SEMA Directors Meet with Region D Emergency Managers

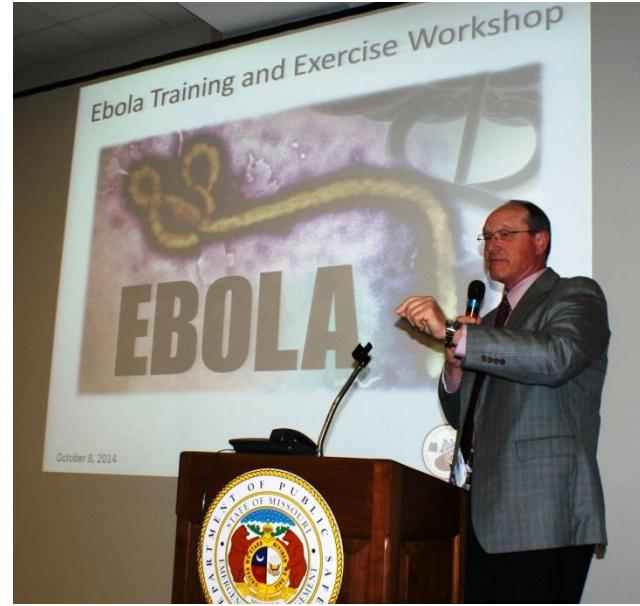
On Sept. 12, Department of Public Safety Director Daniel Isom and SEMA Director Ron Walker met with more than two dozen Region D emergency management directors and response personnel at the Springfield-Greene County Public Safety Center. Isom and Walker wanted to learn more about how Region D's EMDs and response partners collaborate and coordinate to prepare for the wide range of disasters that can strike southwest Missouri.

"Through my more than 30 years of experience with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, I know that Region D has been hit by more than its share of tornadoes, severe storms, flooding and ice storms," said Walker. "What has always impressed me is the advanced planning, preparation and coordination among response agencies and the region's many jurisdictions. The visit gave me a better sense of how everyone works together and gave me my first chance to tour the Springfield-Greene County emergency operations center."

(Continued page 6)

### In This Issue

DPS, SEMA Leaders Visit Region D EMDs	1
State Ebola Preparedness Workshops	1
Director's Letter	2
Region A Profile	3
SEMA Appoints Key Staffers	5
State Lab Designated Ebola Testing Site	6
Civil Unrest in Ferguson	7
Major Disaster Declaration Received	8
New USGS Earthquake Maps	8
Feb. is Earthquake Preparedness Month	9
Show-Me ShakeOut Poster Contest	9
MOCERT1 Wins National FEMA Award	10
SEMA Training Schedule	11



SEMA Director Ron Walker addresses State Ebola workshop participants Oct. 7 at state EOC.

## State Health Department, SEMA Host Ebola Preparedness Workshops

In response to the possibility of a person infected with Ebola entering Missouri, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and SEMA developed and cohosted two intensive Ebola preparedness workshops for local and state public health, health care, public safety and human service provider communities. The training was held Oct. 7 and 8. In less than a week, planning staff from both agencies organized two consecutive half-day workshops, including a table top exercise.

"I'm really proud of how the two Ebola workshops were put together in such a short time," said SEMA Director Ron Walker. "The planning folks from both agencies did an amazing job developing two informative events, which were very well attended and positively received."

(Continued on page 6)



## Director's Letter

**"I've been very impressed with how well emergency managers and responders across the state have worked together during very challenging times."**

*Ron Walker*

As a veteran law enforcement officer, I understand and appreciate the importance of people working together. The value of effective teamwork within an organization and strong relationships with external partners just can't be overstated. Serving as SEMA director has allowed me to see Missouri's emergency management community from a different perspective. I've been very impressed with how well emergency managers and responders across the state have worked together during very challenging times. Missouri's Ebola preparedness activities illustrate this well.

When it became evident that the threat of Ebola could potentially reach from West Africa to Missouri, state Health and SEMA planning teams worked together to create and host two Ebola training sessions for local and state partners from across Missouri. The training, which took just days from concept to completion, was attended by more than 200 people who would have to respond if an Ebola patient entered Missouri. This training also reassured the public that we are capable of responding rapidly to unforeseen hazards.

### FILLING STAFF VACANCIES

Here at SEMA we are continuing to make our organization stronger, more efficient and effective. One of my top priorities has been getting to full "fighting strength" by filling vacant positions, especially those in our regional coordinator cadre. We are making steady progress toward having a coordinator in every region, including the recent addition of Corey Sloan as Region H coordinator.

I'm also pleased to welcome Terry Cassil, our new Response Division manager. Terry recently retired after serving 21 years with the Columbia Fire Department where he served as a firefighter, division chief and battalion chief. He also served as safety officer for Missouri Task Force 1 and as vice chair of the Boone County Local Emergency Planning Committee.

We've also been working on filling other key positions in our Training/Exercise Section, as well as at the Missouri Emergency Response Commission (MERC). Filling the role of MERC director is Dean Martin, a fire service veteran from the Columbia Fire Department, who will use his exceptional knowledge and experience to benefit Missouri's emergency management community. The MERC's key mission is to work with Missouri communities to develop prevention, preparedness, response and recovery plans related to hazardous materials emergencies.

### SECURITY MEASURES IMPLEMENTED

Preparedness should always begin at home and SEMA is no exception. As a result, we've been working with our Missouri National Guard partners to further ensure the security of our workspaces and the safety of our employees and guests. We've also worked with the Guard to provide training on how to safely respond to an active-shooter event. Training seminars were conducted for all personnel working here at the Ike Skelton Training Site, followed by a full-scale active-shooter exercise here on Oct. 3. The exercise required employees to follow established protective procedures and involved response by state and local law enforcement and other first responders.

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF QUIET TIMES

I hope you have a chance to relax a bit and enjoy this fall season. But I also hope you use the time to catch up on some planning or to connect with some of your partners. Let us know if we can help you in that process. The weather may be mild now, but winter is just around the corner and we all know our Show-Me State's winter weather might have some surprises in store for us.

**Ron Walker, Director  
Missouri State Emergency Management Agency**

## Missouri Emergency Management Region Profile: Region A

Region A, with a population of 1.3 million, consists of 13 counties: Platte, Clay, Ray, Carroll, Jackson, Lafayette, Saline, Cass, Johnson, Pettis, Bates, Henry and Benton. The largest population is in Jackson County, which includes Kansas City.

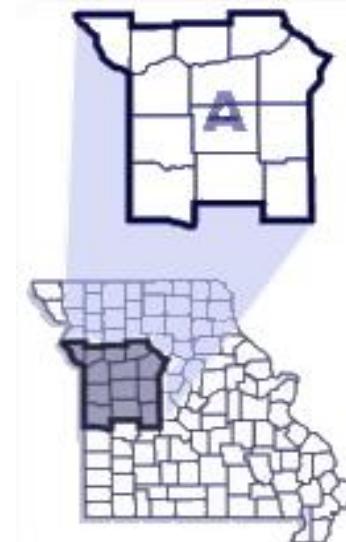
Region A features a massive web of highways, most of which intersect in the Kansas City metro area. Included are U.S. routes 50, 69 and 169. Major interstates through the area are I-29, I-35, I-49, I-435, I-635 and I-70, one of the nation's most heavily traveled highways.

The region features tremendous rail traffic, ranking first in the nation for total tonnage of goods transported from and through the area. Other national industries located in the region include banking, livestock and crop transportation, storage and processing. Government also is a major presence in the region, with more than a dozen federal agencies' regional headquarters, including the FBI, FEMA Region VII, federal transit and aviation administrations, the U.S. Census Bureau and the IRS. The Missouri River, which flows through the region's northern section, also has a significant amount of commercial traffic, including a major river port and 11 regulated barge lines.

Also a recreation and tourist destination, Region A is home to three major league sports teams: the Kansas City Chiefs football team; the American League champion Kansas City Royals baseball team; and, a Major League Soccer team, Sporting Kansas City. The Missouri State Fair grounds are in Sedalia, the National World War I museum is in Kansas City and Truman Reservoir, the state's largest man-made lake, extends into parts of Benton, Henry, St. Clair and Hickory counties.

Also located in the region is Whiteman Air Force Base. A joint-service base, Air Force, Army and Navy units are stationed here. Its host unit is the U.S. Air Force's 509th Bomb Wing, the world's only B-2 Spirit stealth bomber wing. Other units include the Missouri Air National Guard's 131st Bomb Wing, the Missouri Army National Guard's 1/135th Aviation Battalion, the U.S. Air Force Reserve Command's 442nd Fighter Wing and the U.S. Navy Reserve's Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 114.

### Region A



## Region A Emergency Management Directors

### Gary Fisher, City of North Kansas City

Gary Fisher is fire chief and EMD for the city of North Kansas City and has served in the fire service for nearly 40 years. He started his career in 1975 with the Grandview, Mo., fire department and became fire chief and the city's EMD in 1994. He left Missouri in 1998 and served city fire chief and county EMD stints in Arizona before moving back to the state in 2012, when he began his current position.

Chief Fisher has an associate's degree in fire science, a B.A. in public administration, and an M.S. in management. He holds a chief fire officer certification and has completed the prestigious four-year Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy in Maryland. He and his wife Gale have two children, Misty and Eric, and four grandchildren.

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**Find SEMA News on the SEMA website under "News and Publications."**

**[www.sema.dps.mo.gov](http://www.sema.dps.mo.gov)**

## Ronald Nissen, Bates County

Ronald Nissen has been Bates County EMD since September 2008. He took the post after retiring from the U.S. Postal Service.

Nissen enjoys being part of the Bates County emergency management community, especially working with local first responders. He said his greatest challenge is keeping up with advancements in communications and computer technology now being used in emergency management.

Nissen is a life-long resident of Butler, where he lives with his wife, Gay Lea.

## Jeremy Young, Fort Osage

Jeremy Young has served as Fort Osage EMD since 2010 and has more than 20 years of emergency public service experience. He is a member of the Southwest Missouri Incident Support Team.

Holding a graduate degree in organizational leadership, Young also holds a chief fire officer accreditation and is a licensed paramedic.

The Fort Osage Fire Protection District provides fire protection, paramedic ambulance service, special rescue, hazardous materials, emergency management and non-emergency services to patrons within 110 square miles of north-eastern Jackson County, just 20 minutes east of downtown Kansas City. Protection is provided to the cities of Buckner, Levasy, Sibley, River Bend and part of unincorporated Jackson County.

## Dave Clippert, Sedalia-Pettis County

Dave Clippert was appointed Sedalia-Pettis County EMD in February 2008. He retired from active duty with the U.S. Air Force in 1998 after a 20-year career, most of which he served as an emergency manager. Prior to becoming Sedalia-Pettis County EMD, Clippert was a bioterrorism response planner for the Pettis County Health Center. He has also worked at Whiteman Air Force Base as a private government contractor specializing in field equipment in the area of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear hazards.

## Eric Ramsey, Clay County

Eric Ramsey has been Clay County EMD since May 2013 and has served in the fire service for more than 25 years. He is a certified emergency manager through the International Association of Emergency Managers. He also holds a master's degree in human resources from Ottawa University, is a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program and is a Chief Fire Officer Designate through the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

Ramsey is an instructor for regional training events and is involved with the Mid-America Regional Council as a member of the Metro Emergency Manager's Committee, Local Emergency Planning Committee and the Prepare Metro KC Citizen Education Committee. His experience includes serving as part of the response to the 2010 Deep Water Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Ramsey enjoys spending time with his wife and family and hunting at the family farm.

## Mike O'Neal, Platte County Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator

Mike O'Neal was appointed assistant emergency management coordinator in the Platte County sheriff's department in 2002. He also serves as deputy chief of the Weatherby Lake Police Department and is lead coordinator for local off-duty police officers who work in security at St. Luke's Hospital, Kansas City.

O'Neal is the Region A representative to the Missouri Emergency Preparedness Association and is a member of the International Association of Emergency Managers. He is also a member of the U.S. Coast Guard's Kansas City Area Maritime Security Committee.

O'Neal holds a Certified Emergency Management qualification and also serves as trainer and lead for the county's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.

According to O'Neal, the most rewarding part of his job is working with other emergency management professionals, learning from their experiences and gaining better insight into the field of emergency management.

O'Neal and his wife, Isabelle, live in Parkville and have three grown children and three grandchildren.

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## **Anthony "Tony" Avery, Platte County**

Tony Avery is Platte County emergency management coordinator and is also captain of the county's emergency services division. He was appointed to both positions in September 2012.

Prior to his dual appointment, Avery served 25 years as a police officer and detective, making emergency management a foreign topic and one that was "handled by someone else." He was challenged to approach emergency management from a perspective other than law enforcement, though his previous law enforcement experience has been a strength.

Avery says that he considers himself a team player and that emergency management is a team effort. His positions have given him the opportunity to continue to learn.

Avery and his wife, Rebecca, live in Platte County with their two children, Isabella and Nicholas.

## **Michael Curry, Jackson County**

Michael Curry is the director of emergency preparedness for Jackson County, a position he has held for eight years. Upon taking the position with Jackson County, Curry merged the county's capabilities with the city of Independence Emergency Operations Center.

Curry received his Missouri CEM II qualification in 2010. Before becoming Jackson County's EMD, Curry worked for the Upjohn Pharmaceutical Company for 30 years. He was involved in sales, marketing and management. He became the liaison between Upjohn and the U.S. Air Force for the delivery of emergency pharmaceuticals to Latin America and the Gulf region. In that role he was involved in disaster relief in the Bahamas, Curacao Dutch Antilles, Belize, Haiti and Central America.

Because Jackson County had never had a full-time EMD until his appointment, Curry says his greatest challenge was developing the position into a full-time role. He said the most rewarding part of his job has been working with other jurisdictions, agencies and non-governmental entities in developing Jackson County's capabilities to respond quickly to different types of emergencies.

Curry and his wife, Teresa, have two grown sons, Brett and Brandon, and five grandchildren.

## **SEMA Appoints New Staffers to 3 Key Positions**



**Dawn Warren, SEMA Deputy Director**

Dawn Warren became SEMA's deputy director on July 17, 2014. Previously, she served as the agency's Missouri Emergency Response Coalition director and in its training division. Warren has also served as the Gasconade County emergency management director and as a regional bioterrorism and weapons of mass destruction regional planner.



**Dean Martin, MERC Director**

Dean Martin is a 25-year public safety veteran, retiring from the Columbia Fire Department in July 2011. Martin is a state certified paramedic, fire and EMS instructor, fire investigator and hazardous materials technician. He was also a commissioned police officer with the Columbia Police Department and Boone County Sheriff's Department.



**Terry Cassil, SEMA Operations Director**

Terry Cassil joined SEMA after retiring from the Columbia Fire Department. He has more than 20 years of experience in the fire service, having served as assistant fire chief and Boone County LEPC chairman. He was a member of Missouri Task Force 1 Urban Search & Rescue Team (USAR).

## State Public Health Lab to Test for Ebola

The Missouri State Public Health Laboratory has been designated as an Ebola Virus Disease testing laboratory. This means the laboratory is now able to test samples from patients in Missouri thought to have been exposed to the Ebola virus. If the preliminary test results are positive, the samples will be sent for confirmation testing at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. If the samples are negative for Ebola, further testing will be done to determine the patient's illness.

In early October, Gov. Jay Nixon directed the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to seek the special designation as part of a statewide effort to prepare for potential cases of Ebola in Missouri. The state public health laboratory is a key part of the nation's public health and health care Ebola control system.

"Assisting with the testing of specimens is part of the important work we do with federal and local public health partners to identify diseases and protect the public health," said Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Director Gail Vasterling. "Receiving this designation means we can help test and respond to any suspected Ebola cases in a timely and accurate manner."



Missouri State Public Health Laboratory technicians work in personal protective equipment.

## Ebola Workshops

(Continued from page 1)

Held at the State Emergency Operations Center in Jefferson City, the workshops provided training on the Ebola virus, including its spread, symptoms and prevention measures. Also included was an overview of established state and federal plans and procedures already in place for preventing and responding to diseases like Ebola.

Each workshop included a table top exercise based on an Ebola outbreak in Missouri. These exercises were unique in that different sets of injects were tailored for the different groups attending each workshop, such as schools, nursing homes and corrections facilities.

The content of the two workshops was identical, but participants were divided into two groups to promote more productive discussion. More than 150 attended the Oct. 7 workshop, representing a wide range of preparedness and response partners, such as hospitals and other medical providers, state and local public health and emergency management agencies, the Missouri National Guard, law enforcement, fire, EMS, school nurses and funeral directors.

The Oct. 8 workshop was for state and local partner agencies and entities that provide a wide range of health and human services. It was attended by nearly 70 people representing educational institutions, public transit, social service agencies, mental health agencies and agencies representing people with disabilities, as well as VOAD and COAD groups, long-term health care agencies and home health care programs.

"This was a well-coordinated, much-needed event and was put together very quickly. The fact that 219 professionals from across the state attended with only a couple of days' notice is a testament to the interest and concern over this issue," said Scott Clardy, assistant administrator for the Columbia-Boone County Health Department. "It was especially helpful to bring together all of the emergency response disciplines that would be involved in the response to an Ebola event. This allowed us to think outside of our silos and anticipate issues before they might actually occur."



**Flooding at Rockport High School after Sept. 9-10 storms.**

## Missouri Receives Major Disaster Declaration to Assist Communities Impacted By Severe Storm

On Oct. 31, Missouri received a federal major disaster declaration for 20 northern Missouri counties as a result of a severe storm system that brought damaging straight line winds and widespread flooding to that part of the state from Sept. 9 to Sept. 10.

On Oct. 22, Gov. Nixon requested the declaration for public assistance in Adair, Andrew, Atchison, Daviess, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Holt, Knox, Lewis, Linn, Livingston, Macon, Mercer, Nodaway, Putnam, Ralls, Shelby, Sullivan and Worth counties. Public assistance allows local authorities to seek assistance for response and recovery expenses associated with the severe weather and flooding.

### MORE THAN NINE INCHES OF RAINFALL

"The winds generated by this storm system damaged schools and other public buildings, and because of torrential and sustained rains, some areas received more than nine inches of rainfall. That led to days of flooding that heavily damaged infrastructure," Gov. Nixon said. "The response and recovery costs to the affected communities will be extensive, and federal assistance with these costs will help the entire region rebuild and move forward."

During the storms, officers from the Missouri State Highway Patrol and Missouri Department of Conservation assisted local responders with water rescues and evacuations. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources coordinated the response to flood-related hazmat incidents, including 10 anhydrous tanks on trailers that became dislodged and blocked a culvert under U.S. Highway 36.

The Missouri Department of Transportation reported 70 different roads were closed during the storms, including Interstate 29 near the Atchison-Holt county line and U.S. 36 in Macon County.

### ASSESSING THE DAMAGE

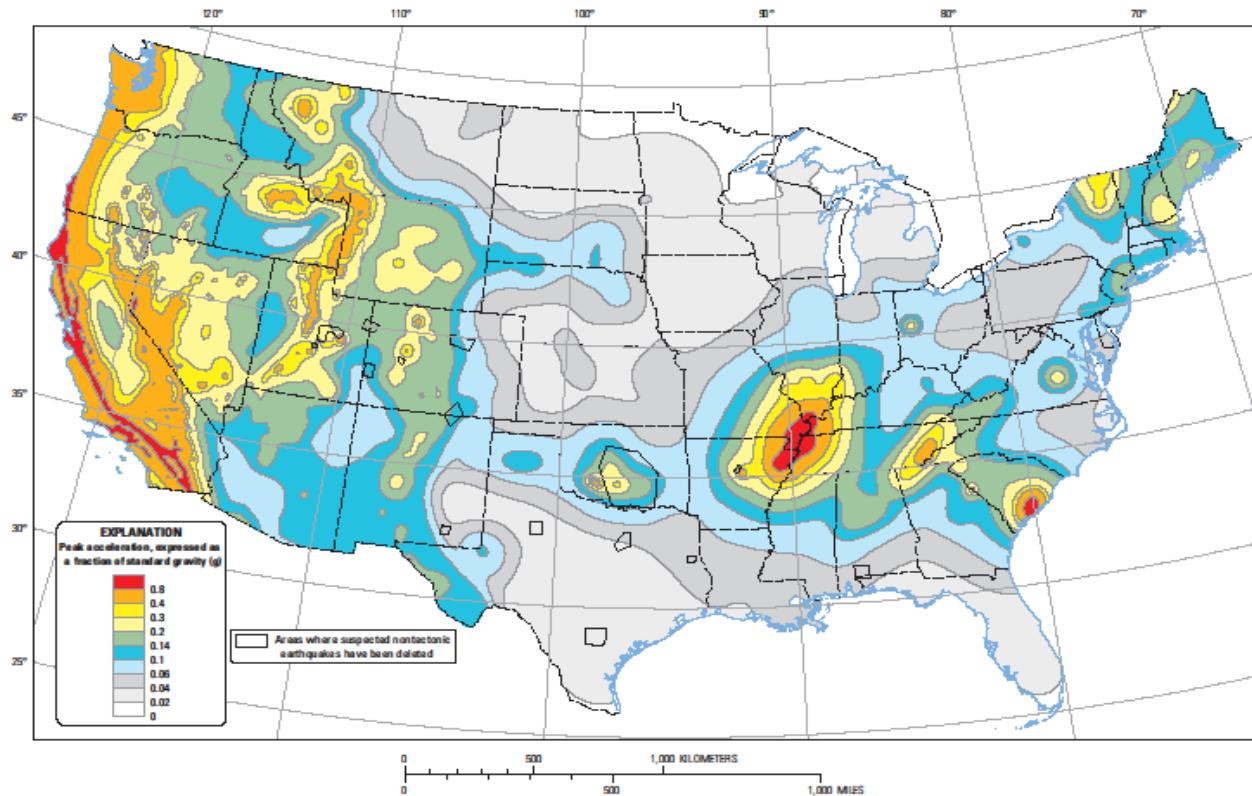
Five joint local, state and federal damage assessment teams fanned out across the region to survey the damage. They found extensive damage to roads, bridges and low water crossings.

## Civil Unrest in Ferguson

Beginning on Aug. 11, SEMA monitored events in Ferguson, where civil unrest and several days of rioting followed the Aug. 9 Ferguson Police shooting of Michael Brown.

On Aug. 14, Gov. Jay Nixon put the Missouri State Highway Patrol in charge of security operations. On Aug. 16, the Governor declared a state of emergency and imposed a midnight to 5 a.m. curfew in Ferguson. On Aug. 18, the Governor lifted the curfew but mobilized the Missouri National Guard in the very limited role of providing security at the Unified Command Center, which had been threatened by rioters the night before. The systematic withdraw of the Guard began on Aug. 21, and the Guard's role ended on Aug. 26, one day before the Unified Command Center closed on Aug. 27. Gov. Nixon lifted the state of emergency on Sept. 3.

SEMA's role continued to be monitoring WebEOC for any resource requests submitted by local emergency managers. During that period, SEMA did receive one resource request from the Missouri Department of Transportation for traffic control items, including concrete barrier sections, road barricades and electronic message boards. SEMA continues to monitor the situation closely and is ready to provide further assistance if needed by state and local partners.



**Two-percent probability of exceedance in 50 years map of peak ground acceleration**

## New National Seismic Hazard Maps Show Missouri is Still Vulnerable to Damaging Earthquakes

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) recently updated the national seismic hazard maps for most of the United States to depict a more accurate picture of the hazards presented by earthquakes across the country, including in Missouri. The updates account for new methods, models and data that have been developed since the 2008 maps were released.

Based on the updated information, scientists concluded Missouri and 15 other states have a relatively high likelihood of experiencing a damaging earthquake during the next 50 years. These states have historically experienced earthquakes with a magnitude 6.0 or greater. More specifically, new estimated effects of a central U.S. earthquake would be slightly stronger in the St. Louis and Poplar Bluff areas, and slightly weaker near Cape Girardeau.

While the USGS maps did not undergo radical changes for the Central U.S., there were some other important changes. In addition to the conclusions about Missouri and the 15 other states, the USGS said all 50 states have some potential for earthquakes and 42 states have a reasonable chance of experiencing an earthquake during the next 50 years.

According to University of Missouri-Columbia Seismologist Eric Sandvol, some of the changes were based on new information about the characteristics of historical earthquakes in the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ). The NMSZ is a series of earthquake-producing faults which runs about 125 miles from near Marked Tree, Ark., through a portion of southeast Missouri, and continues to the northeast to near Cairo, Ill.

More information about the 2014 national seismic hazard maps and related data can be found on the USGS website at: <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/hazards/products/>.

## Start Planning Now for Missouri's Earthquake Awareness Month in February

February is Earthquake Awareness Month in Missouri and it's not too early for emergency management agencies, first responders, schools and entire communities to start planning for how they will take part in the annual earthquake preparedness month.

On Feb. 7, 1812, Missouri was rocked by one of the largest earthquakes ever to hit the continental United States. The quake was centered in what is now the New Madrid Seismic Zone in southeast Missouri, one of the most active seismic zones in the country. Because many Missourians live in that area, each February Missouri observes Earthquake Awareness Month.

Throughout the year and especially leading up to Earthquake Awareness Month, SEMA's Earthquake Program works with local emergency management directors and others across the state who are interested in teaching the public about earthquake preparedness. The program also works closely with the Missouri Seismic Safety Commission and the Structural Assessment and Visual Evaluation (SAVE) Coalition to promote events like the annual Great Central U.S. ShakeOut earthquake preparedness drill each October, as well as workshops for St. Louis businesses to learn how to plan for and mitigate potential earthquake damage.

### SHAKEOUT EARTHQUAKE DRILL

More than 460,000 Missourians took part in this year's Great Central U.S. ShakeOut earthquake drill, conducted at 10:16 a.m. on Oct. 16.

Participating in this year's drill were about 360,000 Missouri school children, teachers and staff, along with more than 25,000 at colleges and universities across the state. The ShakeOut was coordinated by the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC).

For information about Earthquake Awareness Month, contact SEMA's Earthquake Preparedness Program, at (573) 526-9232 or [steve.besemer@sema.dps.mo.gov](mailto:steve.besemer@sema.dps.mo.gov). To learn more about earthquakes and how you can be better prepared, go to [www.sema.dps.mo.gov](http://www.sema.dps.mo.gov).



Belle Elementary School students take part in the Oct. 16 ShakeOut exercise.

### 5TH ANNUAL SHOW-ME SHAKEOUT POSTER CONTEST

SEMA and the Missouri Seismic Safety Commission are again sponsoring the "Show-Me ShakeOut" poster contest in 2015. Missouri's third, fourth and fifth graders are encouraged to create and submit a poster promoting the statewide ShakeOut drill and earthquake safety.

Contest winners will receive \$50 gift cards and emergency preparedness kits. The prizes are courtesy of ABNA Engineering, Inc. of St. Louis, Central Electric Power Cooperative of Jefferson City, the University of Missouri-Columbia's Department of Geological Sciences and the Southeast Missouri Chapter of the American Red Cross.

#### CONTEST GUIDELINES

- ✓ Each school will select **one** winning poster for each of the three grade levels.
- ✓ Posters may be submitted electronically in JPEG, GIF, PDF or PNG format. Schools should retain the original poster for electronic submissions.
- ✓ All submissions must include the school's name, the student's name and age, and the names of the school principal and classroom teacher.
- ✓ **All posters must be submitted to SEMA by Jan. 22, 2015, to be eligible.**
- ✓ The school principal or lead teacher must submit or mail poster entries to: Steve Besemer, State Emergency Management Agency, P. O. Box 116, 2302 Militia Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65102; Email: [steve.besemer@sema.dps.mo.gov](mailto:steve.besemer@sema.dps.mo.gov)
- ✓ Winners from each grade level will be notified in February 2015. Winning results will be posted on the SEMA website [www.sema.dps.mo.gov](http://www.sema.dps.mo.gov) and announced in local news releases.



SEMA Director Ron Walker (front, left) and DPS Director Daniel Isom (front, center) tour the Springfield-Greene County Public Safety Center.

## DPS, SEMA Directors Meet with Region D Emergency Management Directors

(Continued from page 1)

DPS Director Isom told the EMDs that while he has 24 years of law enforcement experience, including four years as chief of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, he's making a priority of learning more about emergency management operations in his new role.

"It was great to have the opportunity to meet with the emergency managers and to tour the extremely impressive public safety center, which strengthened my understanding of the emergency management process," Isom said. "I also appreciate SEMA Director Ron Walker's commitment to meeting with and seeking out input from local EMDs from across our state."

Isom and Walker each thanked Springfield-Greene County Emergency Management Director Chet Hunter for hosting the meeting. Walker said that SEMA Region D Regional Coordinator Denise Russell and all regional coordinators know to keep him informed on any issues arising in their regions and regularly provide updates on regional activities.

## Missouri Winter Weather Awareness Day

**November 19**

[www.crh.noaa.gov/lsx/?n=winterday](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lsx/?n=winterday)

## MOCERT1 Receives FEMA Awards for Outstanding CERT Initiative

On Sept. 3, FEMA announced that the Southwestern Missouri Regional CERT Team (MOCERT 1) was awarded the 2014 Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Initiative award, one of FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Awards.

FEMA presents the awards to individuals, programs and organizations to recognize exemplary efforts to prepare their communities for emergencies.

FEMA received more than 230 award applications from public, private, tribal and nonprofit organizations and individuals from across the nation. The recipients were recognized at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. during National Preparedness Month.

"It was truly an honor to receive the award for Outstanding CERT Initiative and to represent MO CERT 1 in Washington and to talk about the great things the regional organization is doing," said Phil Amtower, Christian County EMD and MOCERT 1 coordinator.

## WHITE HOUSE CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE RECOGNITION

In addition to the Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team Initiative award, Amtower was recognized as a White House Champion of Change in the area of individual and community preparedness.

The Champions of Change program recognizes people who do outstanding work in a wide variety of service categories. Each week, people to be honored as Champions of Change in their category are invited to the White House to be recognized and to talk about their work as part of a discussion panel with other recipients.

Amtower was one of 10 recipients in the individual and community preparedness category. Honorees in this category receive the Champions of Change recognition for excellence in preparing individuals and communities across the nation for disasters and, in doing so, help to build a safer and more resilient nation.

## SEMA Training Schedule 2014

Dates	Event Details	Location
Nov. 4-5	<b>EOC Management And Operations (APS Required Course)</b> POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	Platte County Resource Center, Kansas City
Nov. 5-6	<b>Community Mass Care and Emergency Assistance (APS Elective Course)</b> Sponsor: SEMA	Warren County Emergency Management Agency, Warrenton
Nov. 6	<b>Rail Car Incident Response</b> POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	Howell County EOC, West Plains
Nov. 11-13	<b>Law Enforcement Active Shooter Emergency Response, Train the Trainer</b> POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	College of the Ozarks, Point Lookout
Dec. 1	<b>Hazardous Materials Incident Response: Awareness</b> Time: 8 am-5 pm POST approved; Sponsor: MERC	Springfield Fire Department
Dec. 2-4	<b>Hazardous Materials Incident Response: Operations</b> Times: Dec. 2: 8 am-5 pm; Dec. 3: 8 am-5 pm; Dec. 4: 8 am-5 pm POST approved; Sponsor: MERC	Springfield Fire Department
Dec. 2-3	<b>Management of Spontaneous Volunteers in Disasters</b> Sponsor: SEMA	Moberly
Dec. 8	<b>Ammonium Nitrate Awareness</b> Time: 10 am-Noon Sponsor: MERC	Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia
Dec. 8	<b>Hazmat IQ Training</b> Time: 8:30 am-5:30 pm POST approved; Sponsor: MERC	Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia
Dec. 8	<b>Hazmat Awareness and Operations Train the Trainer</b> Time: 8 am-5pm	Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia
Dec. 8	<b>Anhydrous Ammonia Awareness</b> Time: 1 pm-3pm	Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia
Dec. 9-11	<b>Missouri HazMat Symposium</b> Sponsor: MERC	Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia
Dec. 11-12	<b>ICS400 Advanced Incident Command System</b> POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	St. Joseph

Note: This list does not include invitation-only or local offering-only events. View the complete SEMA training schedule with details on the SEMA website's [Training and Exercises](#) page.

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Send your email address to: [brian.quinn@sema.dps.mo.gov](mailto:brian.quinn@sema.dps.mo.gov).  
Use the subject "SEMA News."